



BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE BRANDON

MONDAY 12TH JANUARY 2026 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors: Wittam (Chair), Bland, Brocklehurst, Challiss, Gorringer, Hughes, Kostecki, Lukaniuk, Palmer, Pinnell, Savage, Siebert, Watts. Clerk: Cunnell,
Minute Taker: Prior

MINUTES

The Chair commented that he was aware that a member of the public had a complaint about operations in the cemetery. The Chair apologised to the member of the public, on behalf of the Council, for any distress that may have been caused. He further explained that the complaint could not be discussed at the meeting due to the Council waiting for the member of public's solicitor to contact Brandon Town Council. Officers will continue to work with the member of the public to reach a mutually agreed outcome.

25/172	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Cllr S Skinner.
25/173	Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations Cllr Brocklehurst and Cllr Lukaniuk – grant for Marketplace CPP re Heritage Centre mural. Cllr Lukaniuk and Cllr Watts - Brandon in Bloom Edible Bus Stops.
25/174	To receive a report from Sqn Ldr Eaton – RAF Lakenheath Victoria Quamina, Community Relations Adviser reported the following:- “I and the 48 FW would like to wish you all a very happy New Year and thank you for your support and understanding over the past year. We look forward to working with you in 2026. Alongside fellow USVF colleagues from RAF Mildenhall, the 48 FW Chaplain assisted with the recent Memorial for the B-17G Flying Fortress ‘Mission Mistress’ in Bury St. Edmunds on Tues 6 Jan. The WW2 memorial was unveiled on the 81st anniversary at the crash site on the Moreton Hall Estate and included family members from the US that flew over especially. Our USVF colleagues at RAF Mildenhall played a key role in the seizure of a Russian-flagged tanker in the North Atlantic this month, an operation that was also supported by RAF surveillance aircraft and a Royal Navy support ship. The UK government position is that we are stepping up activity against shadow vessels, and the US thanked the Ministry of Defence for its “unwavering support” during the operation. Exercise Point Blank is running from 26 Jan – 6 Feb. This is a significant joint exercise with NATO partners and there may be additional flying activity.

	<p>As a summary of community activities by RAF Lakenheath in 2025 (covering Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambs), the CRA provides the following statistics. It's worth noting that this activity is despite the pause during the 42 days of US government shutdown.</p> <p>34 civic and local invitations supported 10 memorial requests supported 22 Remembrance events attended 24 volunteer opportunities committed</p>
25/175	<p>Minutes of Previous Meetings Cllr Watts proposed and Cllr Challiss seconded to agree and sign the minutes from the Full Council Meeting on 8th December 2025. RESOLVED</p>
25/176	<p>Chairmans Report The Chairman reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the unveiling of the WW2 memorial at the crash site on the Moreton Hall Estate in Bury St Edmunds.
25/177	<p>Public Participation Time The meeting was adjourned.</p> <p>A member of the public asked to speak about the situation in the cemetery and commented they had not contacted a solicitor and that they just wanted an apology. The Chair explained that Brandon Town Council had already apologised. The member of public stated that they did not accept our apology.</p> <p>Meeting re-opened.</p>
25/178	<p>Reports from County and District Councillors Cllr Lukaniuk as County Councillor reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended meeting this afternoon re Local Government Reorganisation where a vote took place to request cancellation of the county elections. The reason for the request is Suffolk County Council do not have the capacity to deliver Local Government Reorganisation as well as county elections. The decision will be made in February by government. • The rattling drain covers have been marked and will be sorted as soon as possible but there is a backlog. <p>Cllr Lukaniuk as District Councillor reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3G surface at Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields, which was paid for by West Suffolk Council, has been well received by the football clubs. • The road leading into Brandon County Park is all broken up and contains some large potholes. Cllr Lukaniuk will be contacting Parks and Open Spaces to get this repaired as soon as possible. <p>Cllr Wittam as District Councillor reported at West Suffolk Council the priority was devolution.</p>

25/179	<p>Reports from Town Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Watts reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She had met Senior Town Keeper, to discuss projects involving the cemetery and churchyard and requested this to go on the next agenda. • Helped residents by contacting Suffolk County Council regarding the gritting of the car parks and queried if there was a grit bin. Cllr Siebert had also chased Suffolk Highways regarding a number of empty grit bins in Brandon. <p>Cllr Challiss reported that she had attended the Christmas Buffet. She congratulated Cllr Siebert on the lovely food.</p> <p>Cllr Siebert reported that the Royal British Legion are running the free breakfast and crafting club during the Wednesday of the February half term.</p> <p>Cllr Brocklehurst reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon in Bloom have received the Edible Bus Stop licence for 8 locations. • Fourteen new volunteers have signed up to help look after the planters. • Brandon in Bloom have received a lottery grant, the money will go towards the new garden on the junction of Green Road and Thetford Road. • Anglia in Bloom cemetery and churchyards will be judged virtually again this year. Maximum 100 words, 10 pictures with the closing date being 31st May 2026. • Apologised for the failing Christmas lights at the wedge. <p>Cllr Bland reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the first Breckland Landscape Partnership meeting as a member of the steering group, with a further two meetings arranged. • Fibre is currently being installed in the High Street and on speaking to the company, they do have a traffic light permit. • Water board currently working in the High Street.
25/180	<p>Planning Policy</p> <p>To agree Planning Policy if appropriate.</p> <p>The following was discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few Councillors were fully supportive – It is what we need. • Add new builds to have solar panels – Can't specify that as we don't have the powers only that we encourage and support it. • The policy doesn't encourage development or investment in our town. • Need to be more specific about development sizes. • Places that don't grow lose services or struggle to improve them. • Wait until Brandon Commission report is published to see what it contains. • The majority of the Brandon Commission report is relating to planning issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report is now finalised and we should receive a published report within the next four weeks. • Anything that needs changing in the Planning Policy - send comments to the Town Clerk. <p>Cllr Pinell proposed and Cllr Wittam seconded to delay the implementation of the Planning Policy until the Brandon Commission report could be included within the policy.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/181	<p>Planning Applications to Consider</p> <p>To discuss and agree the Town Council decisions on each of the applications below to be submitted to West Suffolk Council Planning.</p> <p>DC/25/1991/TPO – 16 Riverside Way, Brandon - Tree https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T7DCIEPDH A500</p> <p>Cllr Wittam gave an overview of the planning application. The following points were then made on application DC/25/1991/TPO:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had received an application previously to fell the tree which has now been submitted as a crown lift. <p>Cllr Lukaniuk proposed and Cllr Wittam seconded, to support the application.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/182	<p>Late Planning Applications Received after Agenda was Published</p> <p>To receive, if required. Decision required: To discuss and agree the Town Council decision on any planning applications received after the agenda was published</p> <p>DC/25/1563/TPO – 13 Heron Avenue, Brandon – Tree https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T3NRMUPD FIZ00</p> <p>Cllr Wittam gave an overview of the planning application. The following points were then made on application DC/25/1563/TPO:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge size tree - wondered if size was correct. <p>Cllr Wittam proposed and Cllr Siebert seconded, to support the application.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/183	<p>New Cemetery Report</p> <p>The Clerk gave the following report:-</p> <p>On the portal there were no additional comments or new documents. Prior to Christmas Planning and Highways were discussing an outstanding condition, to be agreed, which is what we are waiting for.</p>
25/184	<p>Biodiversity Policy</p> <p>To agree Biodiversity Policy if appropriate.</p> <p>The following was discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Watts had emailed in the following suggestions:- • Replace tools, as they need replacing, with battery powered.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit solar panels in locations they use, to charge them. • Look at getting battery powered lawn mowers and vehicle. • Encourage awareness of RSPB bird count and butterfly count they have every year. • Promote litter picks and have during the year. • Have always removed Ivy from walls and know what damage it does. • Wilding areas look unkept. • We already have a number of bird boxes. How successful have bird boxes been and do we need to spend money on anymore? • Ecologists advise to leave areas to encourage flowers. Received multiple complaints from businesses on how scruffy the grass areas look on the industrial estate. • Financial concerns. • What funding is there? • By law we need a biodiversity policy. • Clearing of Ivy on Town Keepers work schedule, they know how to do it safely without damaging the walls. • Bird boxes were made by the Town Keepers so no cost but may need refreshing. Evidence may need to be put forward to say if they are actually being used. • Brushwork in the Orchard is due to be tidied and has been delayed due to staff sorting Christmas, sickness and holidays and removing all the brambles. • Speak to Police Architecture Team about reducing anti-social behaviour and litter in the orchard. • Change wording from an action plan to an aspiration. <p>Cllr Bland proposed and Cllr Siebert seconded to agree the Biodiversity Policy, changing the wording from action plan to aspiration.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/185	<p>Request From Brandon in Bloom</p> <p>Brandon in Bloom seek approval on new Edible Bus Stop project for their Suffolk County Council Licence application.</p> <p>To agree approval as per licence application requirement if appropriate.</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained that Highways have already given the licence.</p> <p>Cllr Pinnell proposed and Cllr Gorrington seconded to support the project.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/186	<p>Accounts</p> <p>Cllr Wittam proposed and Cllr Pinnell seconded to approve and note payments made in December 2025.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/187	<p>Grant Applications</p> <p>A representative from Marketplace Arts gave an overview of the mural project, with this being the start of many more projects to come in Brandon.</p>

	<p>The following was also discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy to speak to the trustees of the Heritage Centre to answer any questions. Trustees have not yet authorised the project. • Planning is not required. • Resident happy with the mural. • Concerns from trustees with the road access. • Permanent paint will be used. • Working with young people from Team Chill inspired by Brandon's heritage and landscape. • Longevity – designed to be installed outdoors and withstand the elements. • Concerns about graffiti – lots of evidence that these types of work are not graffitied and are respected. <p>Cllr Pinnell proposed and Cllr Gorrington seconded that Brandon Town Council support the grant of £2,000, in principle, on approval of project by Heritage Centre trustees, before any funds are transferred.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/188	<p>Financial Update</p> <p>Received and noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income & Expenditure Statement against budget for November 2025 • Bank Balances • EMR's
25/189	<p>Clerks Update</p> <p>The Clerk gave the following update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Health and Safety Audit taking place early February. • Legionella testing took place last week. • Re Theft at Old School House – been informed by police to contact them again if necessary – will sort a Lone Working Policy - contact alarm company for panic button.

The meeting closed at 8.38 PM

Chairman

Date